

# Course Syllabus

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Edit

Class Meeting Time: Th 5-7pm

Room: 1006 Dana

Lemos Office Address: 2504  
Dana

Office Hours: Mondays 1-3pm

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## I Course Description

This class will be divided in three one-credit installments to better meet the needs of SNRE interdisciplinary PhD program. Each one-credit class will meet for a semester for a sequence of three semesters total (F16, W17, F17). Each semester will have a focus starting with community building and getting started at SNRE (F16); Research Design (W17) and Proposal Writing and Reviewing (F17). This design is the result of consultation both with former SNRE PhD students and other SNRE faculty. We are trying to create an iterative process through which we can meet and adapt to the diversity of PhD students at SNRE while strengthening the ties between each new PhD class with faculty and other students. Overall, the goals for the class (which can change as we all learn from this experience) are:

1. build a community of PhD students and faculty
2. prepare students to work on their research goals
3. support students in their proposal writing without interfering with their work with their own advisors
4. create a sustainable inviting environment in which PhD students can rely and learn from each other and from faculty

5. support PhD students to meet the milestones in their PhD career at SNRE in a timely and stress-free fashion.

#### Specific Goals:

1. understanding PhD requirements and milestones; developing a milestones calendar
2. accessing resources for a successful PhD career
3. developing a 3 min-3 slides presentation
4. start working on research proposals and providing community feedback

## **II Assignments and Grading:**

There are no formal assignments for the first installment of the course sequence (F16) although students are expected to actively participate of all the events scheduled for this semester. For the first two installments of the class (F16 and W17) students will be given an "Y" grade as a place holder until a final grade is assigned by the time students complete the three credits (F17).

## **III Useful writing support**

Sweetland Writing Center Services for Graduate Students: The Sweetland Writing Center offers free, individual writing conferences for graduate students who are working on course papers, conference presentations, dissertations, grant proposals, resumes, and other writing for academic or employment purposes.

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/> (Links to an external site.)

The Elements of Style, by William Strunk, Jr. <http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html> (Links to an external site.)

OWL on-line writing lab from Purdue's University <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/> (Links to an external site.)

University of Wisconsin writing handbook <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html> (Links to an external site.)

#### **IV Classes/Meetings**

- Good Decisions, Better decisions: panel with current PhD students
- Being an informed PhD student at SNRE
- Things you want to know about SNRE and University Resources: panel with Jen Taylor, Diana Woodworth and librarian
- 3x3 presentations
- Being a PhD student: big words and what they mean
- Research Paradigms discussion

#### **V Class Schedule**

Sept 8: Introduction and Meeting PhD students

Sept 16 (exceptionally Friday from 3-5pm): Being a PhD student at SNRE: Mentoring Plan, PhD book, who to go to for what. Understanding 3x3 presentations

Sept 22: Good Decisions, Better Decisions: panel with graduate students

Oct 13th: 3x3 presentations

Nov 10th: Being a PhD student: big words and what they mean

Dec 1st: Research Paradigms discussion

TBD: 2 hour panel with Diana Woodworth, Jennifer Taylor and Librarian: Navigating your PhD career at SNRE.